

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2 and 4-26 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 2 and 4-26 are amended. Reconsideration based on the amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

I. The Claims Define Statutory Subject Matter

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 2, 4-15, 18, 19, 24 and 25 under 35 U.S.C. § 101. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are amended responsive to the rejection. For example, the claims as amended recite methods of using a "stereoscopic image generating apparatus." Applicant respectfully submits that there is no support for the Office Action's assertion that "structure in the preamble is not sufficient to overcome the rejection." Applicant submits that the recited steps are directly tied to the recited stereoscopic image generating apparatus. Withdrawal of the rejection on this basis is respectfully requested. Further, Applicant respectfully submits that Applicant need not "limit the steps to the digital form and physical form for image processing" because Applicant disagrees with the assertion that "the claim language itself is sufficiently broad enough to read on an individual looking at a pair of images and mentally stepping through the process." Again, Applicant's claims as amended clearly recite that the method is carried out "by a stereoscopic image generating apparatus." Applicant submits that the claims may be given their broadest reasonable interpretation in the context of the claims and specification.

II. The Claims Define Allowable Subject Matter

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 16, 18, 20 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Wood (U.S. Patent No. 6,023,263); claims 2, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21 and 23 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wood in view of Blake et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2005/0232510); claims 4, 6, 8, 10, 12 and 14 under

35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wood in view of Blake; claim 24 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wood in view of Mashitani et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2005/0089212); and claim 25 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wood in view of Blake and further in view of Mashitani. The rejections are respectfully traversed.

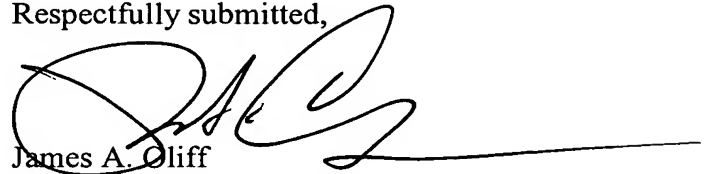
Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are amended responsive to the rejection. The Office Action asserts that Wood, either alone or in combination with the applied references, teaches or would have rendered obvious the claimed features. Applicant respectfully disagrees. Wood neither discloses nor reasonably suggests both extracting a more inconspicuous region as a processed region and generating a stereoscopic image set of images so as to make more inconspicuous the processed regions extracted than the target regions except for the processed region. Additionally, the Wood disclosure is not directed at mitigating binocular rivalry caused by stereoscopic vision, which is one of the many problems solved by the presently claimed arrangement. Thus, Wood, either alone or in combination with the applied references, fails to teach and would not have rendered obvious "a processed region processing step of carrying out processing of generating the stereoscopic image set of images so as to make more inconspicuous the process region extracted in the processed region extraction step than the target regions except for the processed region," as recited in, e.g., claim 1 as amended. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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